

organized a conference in Korea to discuss the challenges of globalization in the 21st century. She brought 268 students together from 67 universities around the world. Professors, policy experts, corporate leaders, and the media also attended the conference to give their own unique perspective on the challenges that lie ahead. As a leader of Harvard University's Project for Asian and International Relations, Supinda invited speakers and corporate sponsors, recruited delegates and managed the logistics of the event. Additionally, she raised \$200,000 in donations to help financially challenged students attend the conference.

Such initiative and intellectual endeavor can be seen throughout Supinda's experience at Harvard. She helped establish a forum on children's health at the Harvard School of Government and created the curriculum for an after-school project for underprivileged youth. Supinda has also traveled to Chile to conduct biological research.

Supinda is one of 20 college students from around the country to be selected as a member of the All-USA College Academic First Team. Twelve hundred fifty-three students from all 50 states and the District of Columbia were nominated for this honor.

Supinda will graduate with a degree in environmental science and public policy and would eventually like to become a college professor. Supinda's experience demonstrates how one individual can achieve so many extraordinary accomplishments through innovation, creativity, and leadership. I ask all of my colleagues to join me in honoring and congratulating Supinda Bunyavanich, on her many accomplishments, and extending to her our best wishes for continued success.

A SALUTE TO CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL VICTORS

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 1997

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize some high school students from Central High School in Woodstock, VA, in my congressional district for their outstanding sports achievement as State champions in cross country and basketball. Both the Central High School boys' cross country team and Central High School girls' basketball team won State championship victories in 1996. To have two teams from the same school obtain the title of State champions during the same year is certainly a true accomplishment. I would like to acknowledge the following team members and coaches for the dedication and hard work that brought them to victory.

Members of the Central High School girls' basketball team are: Christy Burgess, Jessica Wellard, Kathy Gochenour, Stephanie Lane, Sarah Dinardo, Meghan Peer, Brandi Fleet, Sarah French, Lindsey Rutz, Jewelee Magdic, Tata Dooley, and their coach Roger Wilkins. Members of the boys' cross country team are: Tim Cline, Matt Dinardo, Tim Clugasch, Damon Harper, Kirk Kirkland, Bryce Long, Jason Long, Tony Scott, and their Coach Joseph Huddle.

On behalf of the citizens of the 10th District, I salute these teams and Central High School.

H.R. 505, THE COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT ACT

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 1997

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, today, we have the opportunity to take another step closer to a goal we all share with President Clinton: renewing investment in our cities and communities. I am joined by 18 other Members today in introducing H.R. 505, the Community Empowerment Act.

The Community Empowerment Act expands on the successful empowerment zone initiative we began in 1993 which created 9 empowerment zone demonstration projects and 95 enterprise communities. The bill I am introducing today provides tax incentives for an additional 22 new empowerment zones and 80 enterprise communities. The bill also provides tax incentives for cleanup of up to 30,000 brownfield sites across the country.

Everyone has an interest in seeing these communities thrive economically and environmentally. These tax incentives will mean our investments can finally pay off for both the investor and the community.

The bill would establish a new category of tax-exempt financing for 20 additional empowerment zones in 15 urban and 5 rural areas. The other newly designated areas, the 80 enterprise communities, 50 urban and 30 rural, and the 2 additional empowerment zones, would enjoy essentially the same incentives as provided under current law. Located mainly in low-income areas, the zones, and smaller enterprise communities, would be designated for tax and other incentives to enhance economic development, job growth, improved education, housing, and other benefits. As in the nine existing empowerment zones, communities would have the power to design their own specific programs.

The bill would also provide \$2 billion in tax incentives specifically to address the important problem of brownfields, which are abandoned, polluted industrial sites. The tax incentives will spur the private sector to clean up these sites and put them back into productive use. The incentives would apply to all distressed communities, including current and future empowerment zones and enterprise communities, and are expected to result in \$10 billion in private cleanup investment over the next 7 years. Under current law, the costs of new buildings or permanent improvements that increase the value of any property are not deductible. The community Empowerment Act would make certain remediation costs deductible if they were incurred while restoring a qualified site.

Mr. Speaker, leveraging public sector resources to encourage private-sector community investment is a fiscally responsible and wise means of promoting community development and prosperity. I invite my colleagues to sign onto this bill and vote for it.

THE NATIVE AMERICAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACT OF 1997

HON. BILL RICHARDSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 1997

Mr. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing a bill designed to promote greater telecommunications service to native Americans, including Alaskan Natives.

There is great optimism in this Chamber about last year's Telecommunications Act, particularly the provisions on universal service. While I join my colleagues in that optimism, I am concerned that these policies will prove insufficient for native Americans.

For too long, native Americans have fallen through the cracks of our national telecommunications policy. My bill will ensure that the universal service mechanisms designed by the Telecommunications Act of 1996 will benefit carriers designated to serve Indian lands.

Among the recommendations in the 1995 Office of Technology Assessment report, "Telecommunications Technology and Native Americans" is a strengthened Federal/tribal government partnership in the telecommunications field to provide better services to persons in Indian country and to enable tribes to be direct providers of telecommunications services.

In conjunction with this report and President Clinton's Executive order to require all Federal agencies to adopt specific policies to ensure responsible representation of the interests of native Americans my bill will direct the FCC to:

Establish an Indian telecommunications policy that takes into account the unique government-to-government relationship between the tribes and the Federal Government, the trust obligations of the United States.

Promote opportunities for meaningful participation and comment in FCC proceedings.

Obtain and maintain a database of reliable statistics concerning the extent of subscribership to, and the affordability of, telecommunications and information services on Indian lands.

The legislation will promote the exercise of sovereign authority of tribal governments over the establishment of communications policies and regulations within their jurisdictions. Furthermore, the bill will promote native-American participation in the consumption and provision of telecommunications services.

To focus Federal infrastructure development policy, the legislation that I have introduced today requires the National Telecommunications and Information Administration [NTIA] to encourage investment in, and the deployment of, telecommunications systems on Indian lands.

We currently operate without any policy towards these sovereign entities, many of which retain great physical and geographical barriers to proper infrastructure. This lack of direction creates greater polarization between the technological haves and have-nots.

Many rural tribes are caught in a jurisdictional "catch 22" due to the existing lack of policy at both the Federal and State level. While many States require telecommunications carriers to serve rural areas in America as part of a larger overall regulatory agreement, the States are not compelled to extend these services onto Indian lands. Consequently, many rural Indian reservations fail to receive adequate service.

My bill does not seek to mandate States or telecommunications carriers to provide services. Instead, it asks the Federal Government to live up to the obligations it has as reflected in the Constitution, treaties, Federal statutes, and the course of dealings of the United States with Indian tribes. Where States and market forces fall short in providing adequate services at reasonable and affordable rates, it is a Federal responsibility that should be provided by means of the Federal support mechanisms established under the universal service provisions of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

The most important issue at stake here is economic development and prosperity on Indian lands. As the fiscal constraints of balancing the Federal budget here in Washington continues, we must counter spending cuts on programs that benefit native Americans with greater economic opportunity.

The future of American economic prosperity in rural America lies squarely on the back of the telecommunications infrastructure throughout the land. Already we are seeing industry sprout up in rural America where fiber optic cables have been installed; the second coming of the railroad to many of these communities. It is imperative that we include native Americans in the prosperity of the technological revolution.

As the FCC prepares to adopt a policy on universal service, the implementation process of the Telecommunications Act reaches a critical stage. I believe it is important to make it perfectly clear that the intent of Congress can only be fulfilled if the universal service policies or procedures established to implement the act address the telecommunications needs of low-income native Americans.

IN HONOR OF TWO DISTINGUISHED
INDIVIDUALS MAKING A DIFFERENCE
IN THEIR COMMUNITIES: MARTIN R. VITALE AND
HARVEY WHILLE

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 1997

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to two outstanding individuals, Martin R. Vitale and Harvey Whille, in recognition for their contributions to fostering a sense of understanding within the labor and business communities. Mr. Vitale and Mr. Whille will be honored during the fourth annual Archbishop's Labor and Business Recognition Dinner at the Marriott at Glenpointe in Teaneck, NJ.

The Archbishop's Annual Labor and Business Recognition Dinner began with the purpose of recognizing those in both the labor and management fields who were making a difference to promote cooperation between these two unique entities. Over the past 4 years, this observance has become a vital component in the ongoing attempt by the Catholic Church of Newark to encourage and to enhance the dialog between labor and management. Additionally, this dinner has become a vital source of funding for the CYO/Youth Ministries of the Archdiocese of Newark which operates an Outreach Program in Jersey City.

Martin R. Vitale's road to his chairmanship of the Board of Directors of Twin County Gro-

cers has been enhanced by numerous family members and business associates. Mr. Vitale is married to an exceptional woman named Barbara whose community service has benefited the residents of Alpine, NJ for the past 13 years. Mr. and Mrs. Vitale have four accomplished children: Andrea, Martin, Jr., Stephanie, and Barbara. Mr. Vitale's own business, Vitale Enterprises, operates 10 Foodtown supermarkets, some of which serve residents of my district.

Harvey Whille, president of New Jersey's largest labor union, United Food and Commercial Workers [U.F.C.W.], Local 1262, is a man of extraordinary commitment to the union members he represents as well as to his community. Mr. Whille's unwavering sense of responsibility to the labor movement began in 1962 as a rank and file member at Foodarama supermarkets. Subsequently, he has served as a shop steward, union organizer, representative, field director, secretary-treasurer, and local president to members who work in New Jersey and New York businesses, many of which are located in my district. Mr. Whille's dedication to community service has seen him function as the chairman of numerous charitable endeavors, including fundraising for handicapped children. Mr. Whille has received honors from both the New Jersey Industrial Union Council and the Civil Rights Committee of U.F.C.W., region 1. Mr. Whille resides in Wall Township with his wife Donna with whom he has four children, Timothy, Tammy, Thomas, and Tara, and three grandchildren.

It is an honor to have two such distinguished individuals working on behalf of the residents of my district. I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Martin R. Vitale and Harvey Whille who epitomize the good that can be accomplished when people work together toward a common goal.

RELEASE MONEY TO SAVE
WOMEN'S LIVES

HON. ELIZABETH FURSE

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 1997

Ms. FURSE. Mr. Speaker, a very important vote on family planning will occur this month.

The fiscal year 1997 Foreign Operations appropriations bill directs the President to submit a Presidential Finding to Congress no later than February 1, detailing whether or not the spending restrictions imposed on family planning overseas are having a negative impact on the proper functioning of those programs.

The Presidential Finding is to be included in a joint House-Senate resolution on which both bodies must vote by February 28. If both the House and Senate approve the finding, international family planning funds will be released on March 1 rather than the current July 1 release date of funds that have already been appropriated.

The President has submitted that finding and now we will have the opportunity to deliver the international family planning funding, which has been delayed already since October 1 of last year.

I commend to my colleagues' attention the following column written by First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton in which she portrays the situation of real women's lives and the urgent

need for family planning. It appeared in the current issue of *Popline*, a publication of the Population Institute on whose board of directors I serve.

FAMILY PLANNING IS REDUCING ABORTIONS

(By Hillary Rodham Clinton)

The pregnant woman wore an alpaca shawl over her blouse and full skirt, the traditional Indian dress in Bolivia. She looked about 36 and was attending a prenatal class at a health clinic I visited this week in the Bolivian capital, La Paz. She was nursing a 3-month-old baby and expecting her eighth child, who she hoped would be her last.

I was in Bolivia to attend the Sixth Conference of Wives of Heads of State and Government of the Americas. Women from countries throughout the Western Hemisphere got together to talk about strategies to eliminate measles, promote education reform and improve maternal health in our region.

Bolivia, a country of majestic beauty in the heart of South America, was an auspicious location for such a discussion. More women die in Bolivia during pregnancy and childbirth than in any other country in South America. But in the face of this human tragedy, Bolivia has become a model of how one nation can respond to the crisis of maternal mortality by galvanizing the government, non-governmental organizations and the medical establishment to launch a nationwide family planning campaign.

In a country where half of all expecting mothers go through pregnancy and childbirth alone—without medical attention of any kind—Bolivia's aggressive effort to educate women about their own health and their options for childbearing is resulting in safer pregnancies, stronger families and fewer abortions. Without access to family planning, women in Bolivia—and in many developing nations—often turn in desperation to illegal, unsafe abortions that can end in death or serious injury. Deaths from abortion complications account for half of all maternal deaths in Bolivia.

As Bolivia has ably demonstrated, voluntary family planning teaches women about the benefits of spacing children several years apart, breast-feeding, good nutrition, prenatal and postpartum visits and safe deliveries. It also decreases the number of abortions.

Bolivia's success at preventing mothers from dying and lowering abortion rates has been possible, in part, because of help from the United States and other countries. The U.S. Agency for International Development has provided financial and technical assistance to help Bolivia establish a network of primary health care clinics.

The clinic I visited in La Paz is one that the United States helped start. Called PROSALUD (which loosely translated, means "for the good of health" in Spanish), the clinic has doctors and nurses who offer round-the-clock prenatal, obstetric and pediatric services, as well as counseling about family planning in a poor neighborhood of 15,000 people. In the first six months of 1996, the clinic staff provided 2,200 medical consultations, delivered 200 babies, registered 700 new family planning users and immunized 2,500 children.

There are obvious benefits of such a program to Bolivian women, children and families, but health and family planning services also help alleviate poverty and contribute to the economic stability of a democratic ally in our hemisphere. Yet opponents of foreign assistance and particularly of family planning in Congress are trying to eviscerate U.S. funding for programs like the one I saw